

DISCUSSION

With respect to claims 6,9-11 and 16 the distinguishing over and patentability over the art through the amending should achieve the limiting of the claims to the clean up of spilled mercury with a transfer tool having the deformable absorber 20 of Figs 4A & B that can change shape at the spillage surface and has a core portion of wires or filaments that will hold a large volume with each of the wires or filaments coated with gold 7 which has a high affinity for mercury. The transfer tool of the invention can conform to the spillage area and absorb a much larger volume than seen heretofore in the art.

In view of the limiting of the claims the following discussion of the art as it pertains to the invention is advanced.

It is respectfully urged: that the Yan reference indicates that removing mercury may involve organic, inorganic and metallic forms; that the Williston, Hasenpusch, and Gunter references indicate that thin films of gold on a carrier material are used to absorb mercury present in a vapor; that the Jackson, Spirig 408, Spirig 606, and Kent references indicate that the concept of wicking is practiced in the molten solder field.

The only reference that is specifically directed to the cleaning up of mercury spills is the Seidenberger reference that uses a zinc coated wool.

Applicants are urging with respect to claims 6, 9 - 11 and 16 that the invention of a deformable absorber that can change shape and provide access to a broad area of thin gold affinity at the spillage area interface together with the ability provided through the filamentary arrangement to soak up a large volume of mercury for transport is neither taught nor suggested by the art and

provides a major step and a patentable contribution to the art.

Applicants are further urging with respect to new process claim 17 that the invention of a process employing a deformable absorber that can change shape and provide access to a broad area of thin gold affinity at the spillage area interface together with the ability provided through the filamentary arrangement to soak up a large volume of mercury for transport is neither taught nor suggested by the art and also provides a major step and a patentable contribution to the art.

If applicants attorney can be of assistance he can be reached on (914) 472-0644.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG.1

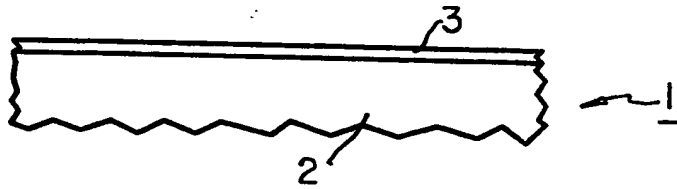


FIG.2

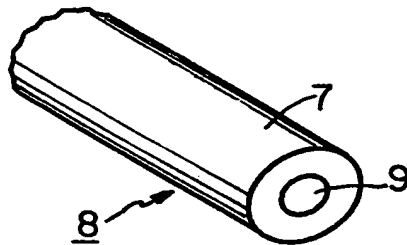
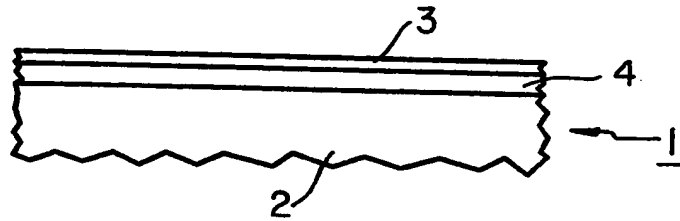


FIG.3B

FIG.3A

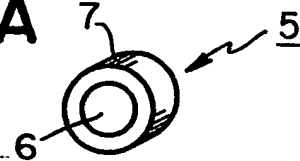


FIG.4A

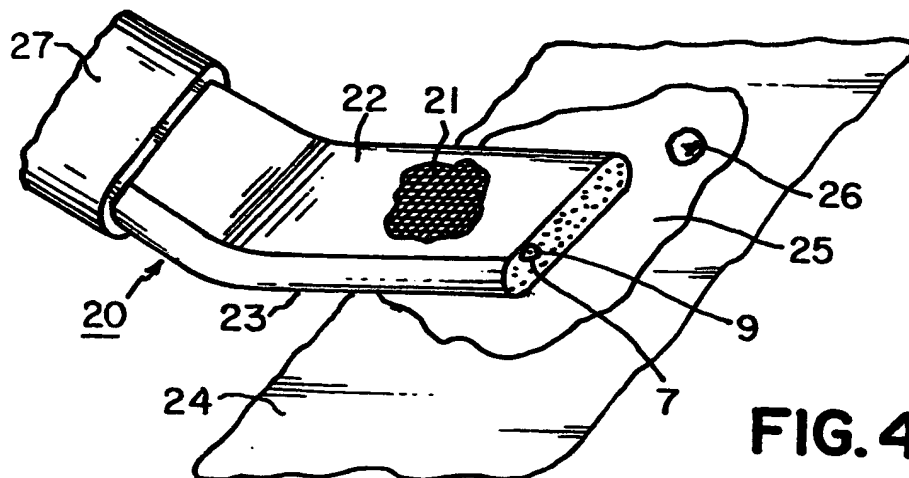
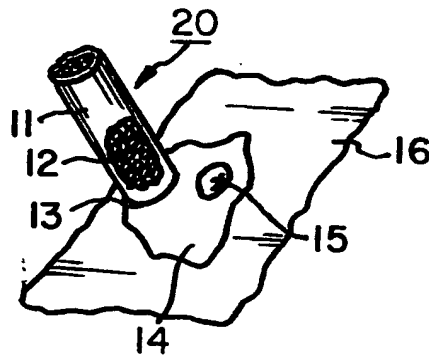


FIG.4B